In September 2016, we will elect 2 voting members to the 2017 Triennial Convention of the Churchwide WomeIn of the ELCA. This Tenth Triennial Convention will be held in Minneapolis, MN, July 10-12, 2017.

**Why are we electing voting members (formerly called delegates) in 2016?** Because all voting members must be elected at a synodical convention that precedes November 30, 2016, which is the deadline for reporting voting member elections.

**Who can be elected as a voting member?** A voting member must be a member of an ELCA congregation within our Rocky Mountain synod and a participant in an active unit of Women of the ELCA.

**How does one get nominated?** You are elected or appointed by your individual church’s Women of the ELCA unit to be their nominee. **There can be only one nomination from each unit,** with the exception that if the SWO President or a Churchwide board member is from that unit, the unit can still elect/appoint a voting member nominee.

* The SWO President and Churchwide board member are automatic voting members by virtue of their position.

**How many** nominees **do we need on the ballot?** A minimum of 4 (at least two per voting member position.

**Who prepares the ballot of voting member nominees?**  The SWO Nominating Committee.

**When is the ballot prepared for the voting members nominees?**  In August, 2016.

**What criteria needs to be met in the election of the voting members?**

* As nearly as possible, at least 10% of the delegation shall be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English
* At least one-fourth (25%) of the voting members shall be women attending the convention as voting members for the first time
* Women are **Ineligible** to be elected if have served as a Triennial Convention voting member for the RM Synod Women in the last six (6) years

**Can nominations come from the floor at the convention?**  Yes, but floor nominee names are limited to those who were nominated by their individual church unit and weren’t on the ballot prepared by the SWO Nominating Committee.

**What do the Triennial Voting Members do at the Triennial Convention?** The voting members hear reports, vote on Churchwide officers and board members, approve the Churchwide budget, vote on Memorials and Resolutions and Constitutional changes brought forward as business of the Convention. The Triennial Convention is the highest authority of the Churchwide Women of the ELCA. Besides the business of the Triennial Convention, they network and fellowship with other women from across our entire Women of the ELCA and have a lot of FUN!

**Who pays for the transportation and housing to attend the Convention?** The voting members’ expenses are paid for Churchwide Women of the ELCA.

**If voting members want to attend the 2017 Triennial Gathering following the Convention, who pays for those expenses?**  The voting member is responsible for the Triennial Gathering registration and any associated housing/meal expenses following the close of the Convention.